

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ASMARA 00234 191547Z

50

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 OPR-01 OC-05 CCO-00 A-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10 ACDA-05 MC-02

AID-05 SCCT-01 SY-04 PC-01 USSS-00 /097 W

----- 096297

P 191400Z FEB 75

FM AMCONSUL ASMARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3195

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM PRIORITY

USCINCEUR PRIORITY

CINCUSNAVEUR PRIORITY

COMIDEASTFOR PRIORITY

NAVCOMMUNIT ASMARA PRIORITY

NAVCOMMSTA NEA MAKRI PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASMARA 0234

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PINS, ET

SUBJECT: ERITREAN SCENE

1. A LOCAL SOURCE, WHO DROVE FROM MASSAWA TO ASMARA ON 17 FEB, REPORTED SEEING FIGHTER PLANES BOMBING AND STRAFING ABOUT 7 KMS FROM ROAD, 25 KMS OUT OF MASSAWA. COMMENT: THIS CORRESPONDS WITH REPORT FROM MILITARY SOURCE WHO SPOKE OF ARMY OPERATIONS IN THE AREA. END COMMENT. THE SOURCE REPORTS HIS CAR WAS STOPPED AND SEARCHED BY TROOPS AT SEVERAL POINTS BUT THEY DID NOT ATTEMPT TO CONFISCATE HIS JERRY CANS FULL OF GASOLINE. SOURCE ALSO REPORTS THAT FOOD STOCKS IN MASSAWA ARE RUNNING LOW.

2. A GENERALLY RELIABLE SOURCE REPORTS THAT 30 COMMANDO POLICE DEFECTED TO PLF WITH THEIR GUNS ON 18 FEB. SAME SOURCE ALSO REPORTS THAT A HIGH LEVEL 2ND DIV OFFICER ALONG WITH APPROXI-
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PAGE 02 ASMARA 00234 191547Z

MATELY 60 SOLDIERS WERE CAPTURED ON 15 FEB BY ELF, AND THAT NOW

APPROX. 600 2ND DIV SOLDIERS ARE REFUSING TO FIGHT. COMMENT: WE ARE UNABLE TO CONFIRM THIS REPORT AT THIS TIME. END COMMENT. SOURCE REPORTS THAT DR. RUSSI ALEXIEV, BULGARIAN NATIONAL, WHO WAS DIRECTOR AND CHIEF SURGEON OF 2ND DIV HOSPITAL, WAS FIRED FOR PASSING INFORMATION TO THE ENEMY. COMMENT: CONSOFF BADE FAREWELL TO DR. ALEXIEV AT THE AIRPORT ON 16 FEB. DR. ALEXIEV APPEARED SHAKEN AND SAID HE WAS LEAVING PERMANENTLY.

3. A LOCAL SOURCE REPORTS THAT OF THE PRISONERS RELEASED IN ASMARA ON 13 FEB, APPROX SIX RETURNED, WERE CAPTURED BY TROOPS, AND ARE NOW BEING QUESTIONED. SOURCE DENIES REPORT THAT MANY PRISONERS WERE KILLED BY TROOPS. COMMENT: PASSING PRISON ON FEB 19, CONGEN SAW NO RPT NO GUARDS IN TOWERS OR ON PRISON WALLS. END COMMENT.

4. WITH REGARD TO VOA REPORT ABOUT EPMG ARMS REQUEST TO USG SOURCE SAID, QUOTE NOW ERITREANS WILL FIND OUT WHO THEIR ENEMIES ARE END QUOTE. OTHER LOCAL SOURCES HAVE EXPRESSED DISMAY AND DISPLEASURE AT THE VERY IDEA OF THE USG EVEN CONSIDERING SUCH A REQUEST IN THE MIDST OF THE PRESENT FIGHTING.
SHERRY

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Message Attributes

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Concepts: COMBAT OPERATIONS
Control Number: n/a
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Draft Date: 19 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Disposition Reason:
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Executive Order: GS
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EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

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TAGS: PINS, ET
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